



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

Environmental Services

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Drinking Water Day at the Iowa State Fair: August 13, 2019

Join us at the courtyard of the DNR Building located at the Iowa State Fair next Tuesday, August 13, from 10 AM until 4 PM.

We promise that this will be a fun, interactive, and educational display for visitors of all ages where you can learn:

- Where does your water come from?
- Groundwater modeling.
- How coagulants work in water treatment.
- Samples of plumbing with Lead and test kits.
- Resources for private well owners.
- Water themed coloring station.
- Are you taller than the water tower?

DNR water supply program staff will be available to answer questions related to drinking water. Hope to see you there!

Reminder about Depressurization and Manganese Sampling

Due to recent health studies and the consideration of manganese as an acute health concern, the Iowa Main Break and Depressurization Guidance was revised in May 2019. The major revisions include the use of bottled water rather than boil water advisories for systems with elevated or unknown manganese levels, and advice for customers to not drink or cook with colored water. This document has been approved and is now being implemented. It is available on the Iowa DNR's [Public Notice website](#). Look for the "Main Break and Depressurization Guidance" block in the lower right hand section.

The guidance includes specific information about the four categories of main breaks, guidance about repair of each, when boil or bottled water advisories are recommended or required, and specific information when bacterial sampling is recommended or required following depressurization events. Included in the guidance are templates for a

main break log, a communication plan including boil and bottled water advisory templates, and a one page summary of the procedures for each type of main break.

EPA has developed health advisories for manganese, which includes both acute (immediate) and non-acute (chronic) levels. For bottle-fed infants six months of age and younger, the acute level is 0.3 mg/L, while the acute level for the rest of the population is 1 mg/L, both of which are 10-day advisories. Typically, manganese concentrations in the groundwater are fairly constant, so there isn't much variation over time. For the entire population, the lifetime health advisory is 0.3 mg/L. Health advisories are not enforceable drinking water standards but public notice can be required when levels exceed the health advisory.

In order to be prepared, systems are encouraged to collect a certified lab sample for manganese at their Source Entry Point(s) so they know the manganese levels in their system. Be sure that these samples are submitted as "special" samples to the lab and are reported to DNR. If the manganese levels are unknown and the system has an incident that necessitates an advisory, the advisory will be a bottled water advisory. Systems with known low levels of manganese (less than 0.22 mg/L), nitrate (less than 7 mg/L as N) and nitrite (less than 0.7 mg/L as N) will issue a boil water advisory. It is very important for operators to know the levels of these three contaminants in their systems when they call the DNR for assistance, especially if they call outside of normal business hours.

Systems that conduct manganese self-monitoring are encouraged to analyze the sample they send to their certified lab and compare the results. Few systems have any comparison results between their self-monitoring and certified lab results for manganese so systems are encouraged to do this paired sampling periodically so they understand how the self-monitoring result and certified lab result compare. During sanitary survey inspections, systems are being asked to analyze the water being sampled by the inspector for this comparison.

For more information on the adverse health effects of manganese and other information, please visit the DNR's [Drinking Water Health Advisories webpage](#), which includes links to DNR's Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions about Manganese in Drinking Water and other reference material.

Watch for training opportunities about the guidance and contact your Iowa DNR Field Office with specific questions.

Iowa DNR WS Staff Speaking Engagements

Iowa DNR staff in the water supply program areas are scheduled to speak at the following events. The date, sponsor and event, location, subject, and contact for more information are listed.

- August 27-28, IA-AWWA Fall Short Course, DMACC-FFA Center, Ankeny
"Ethics and the Value of What You Do; DNR WS Rules Update; Using Temporary Water Lines During Water Main Construction Projects Panel; Manganese Sampling Protocol." [Agenda and registration](#)

- September 17-18, IRWA – Okoboji, “MO River Flooding & Drinking Water Experience; Manganese testing; DNR WS Update.” [Information and registration](#).
- October 9, IA-AWWA Region 3, Storm Lake, “DNR WS Update; Manganese testing.” [Registration not yet available](#).
- October 10, IA-AWWA Region 2, Mason City, “DNR WS Update.” Registration not yet available.
- October 15-16, IRWA – Dubuque, “MO River Flooding & Drinking Water Experience; Manganese testing; DNR WS Update.” [Information and registration](#).
- October 22-24, IA-AWWA Annual, Ames, “The Good, the Bad, and the Really Ugly – Flooding Experience; DNR WS Update.” [Information and registration not yet available](#).
- November 19-21, IAMU Water and Wastewater Operator’s Workshop, Des Moines, “Southwest Iowa Flooding Event; Manganese testing.” Information and registration not yet available.

For other professional development opportunities, see the “Training Calendar” at programs.iowadnr.gov/opcertweb/.